

MR. DYER: My name is Daniel Dyer, and I represent the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. I run the agricultural and conservation programs for the tribe. 48 A couple of quick and concise comments. I think, and Ross echoed -- I'll echo Ross' statement that I think that we need a greater cost share for USDA programs. I feel as though there has been a disparity of funding on the Indian reservations, and I think that if we increase the cost share, that we could solve that problem. I'm talking specifically about TSP contribution agreements, EQIP, CRP and CSP at least on my reservation. Talking about the failure of monitoring for conservation programs, my tribe has been working with the USGS for the last ten years in monitoring surface and ground water quality. And since we've instituted some of the conservation programs, we have seen a great decrease in sedimentation of our surface waters.

So I think that if that can be somehow incorporated into the Farm Bill, that we would strengthen the impact of conservation practices. The last thing that I want to talk about is that the tribe sees an emerging market in the organic production. I feel as though that the USDA's attempts to reduce organic standards is going hurt small producers like us in reaching those markets. I feel that when the organic industry was monitoring itself, it was a far greater standard than what the USDA has implemented in the past couple of years. Thank you for this opportunity to talk.

MR. RACINE: Next, please. James.